

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of the Public Hearing of the Trustees of Sycamore Township Sycamore Township, Hamilton County, Ohio

September 20, 2022

The Public Hearing for the Richmond Avenue and Hemesath Lighting District Renewals was called to order at 6:45 p.m. Present for the hearing were Chairman Weidman, Vice Chairman Schwegmann, Trustee James, Law Director Barbieri, Fiscal Officer Porter, Interim Administrator / Superintendent Kellums, and Planning & Zoning Administrator Miller.

Mr. Porter reminded the Board that lighting districts must be initiated by the residents of a neighborhood. He explained the district will pass if at least 51% of the neighborhood are in favor of it, and then it goes before the Trustees. He noted Duke Energy is the only supplier and the cost of the lights is assessed to the property owners. Mr. Porter stated the Richmond Avenue and Hemesath drive Lighting Districts are up for renewal because it has been 10 years since their last renewal. He stated the Sheriff's Office is an advocate for lighting districts because it provides for safety.

Mr. James noted the renewal includes an upgrade to LED and asked what is involved in doing so.

Mr. Porter said he thinks that has already been done.

Mr. Kellums said it has already been done.

Mr. Porter said the LED lights are an energy upgrade and reduces maintenance.

Mr. Kellums said the LED reduced the cost from \$15.56 per year to \$14.21 per year.

Mr. Weidman asked if anyone present from the public would like to comment on the Richmond Lighting District Renewal.

Mr. Brian Haigh, owner of 7410 Richmond Avenue, addressed the Board. Mr. Haigh stated the notice was hand delivered to his house on Richmond and should have been mailed. He said the notice is misleading because the cost is listed as \$14.21 per lot per year but the properties on Richmond are all multiple lots. He noted his property has three lots, so the actual cost is \$42.63. Mr. Haigh argued with porch lots and Ring doorbells the lights are not necessary and reported the original person who signed the petition moved out 25 years ago. Mr. Haigh stated the issue should be placed on the ballot. He discussed how much his property taxes have gone up in recent years.

Mr. Weidman asked if anyone else present wished to comment on the lighting district renewals. No response.

Mr. James asked if the renewal could be undone during the ten-year term of the renewal.

Mr. Porter answered he does not think that can be done.


Mr. Kellums stated it would have to be done by a resident-initiated petition at the end of the contract.

Mr. Porter said, to be clear, a lighting district is not something that is initiated by the Trustees, it is initiated by the residents.

Mr. James suggested Mr. Haigh go through the process to consolidate the parcels on his property into one.

There was a discussion about consolidated lots and the properties on Richmond Avenue.

Mr. Weidman closed the public hearing at 6:57 p.m. noting the issue would be discussed in the regular Trustees Meeting beginning at 7:00 p.m.



Thomas J. Weidman, Chairman



Tracy Schwegmann, Vice Chairman



Thomas C. James, Jr., Trustee



Robert C. Porter III, Fiscal Officer

09/20/2022